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Masato Fukuda

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EXAMINER

DICKERSON, CHAD S

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/660,651	Applicant(s) FUKUDA, MASATO	
	Examiner Chad Dickerson	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 8 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>see IDS filed 7/4/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/22/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 4/22/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the Amendment filed 4/22/2008, the Examiner found 112 issues in the claim language. Without addressing the 112 issues, the Examiner still believes that the references used apply to the claim language recently filed. When looking at the main reference Holmstead, it is understood that the reference contains some print job component information that is analogous to identification information for image data. Mentioned in the background of Holmstead is a reference to how a print job is composed in the system. It states that print job tickets references a list of print job elements (see paragraph [0002]). When using this description in the explanation of the local memory and input buffer, the system performs the feature of comparing print job tickets that reference lists of printing components. In the scenario of the system checking to see if a print job located in the input buffer has matching print job

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components on the local memory, the system performs the feature of comparing the referenced list of components temporarily stored in the input buffer related to the print job ticket to the referenced list of components regarding print job components in the local memory. Therefore, the lists that are referenced by the print job components are compared to each other and thus, perform the feature of comparing two lists that are related to a print job (see paragraph [0032]-[0044]). Once these referenced lists are compared, if the local memory is found to have all the printing components, then the downloading of print job components from the servers, or remote sites, is not performed and redundant downloading of print job components from the remote servers is, in fact, avoided.

Therefore, the Examiner still believes that the features disclosed in the recently filed Amended claims are taught by the Holmstead and Morita references and the rejection is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to

one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Re claim 1: The Examiner reviewed the specification in order to better understand the claim Amendments presented in the response on 4/22/2008. When reviewing the specification in order to find support for the Amendments, the Examiner noticed that the deletion means does perform the feature of deletion image data stored in the print cache, considered as the image storage means, but the image data deleted is listed in both the first and second cache lists. For example, when looking at page 17, lines 7-10 of applicant's specification, the image data is first listed and extracted from the first cache list. This occurs in both the first and second embodiments. The Examiner could not find any support for the phrase "deleting means for deleting the image data stored in said storage means that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of comparing by said comparison means". The specification discloses deleting image data from the print cache when the image data is marked. The image data is marked when it is not being designated for printing at a present time, but has been previously printed and listed on the second list. Since the above phrase refers to the deletion aspect of this invention and since the deletion aspect of the invention, according to the specification, does not coincide with the claim limitation, the claim language regarding the deletion means, the step of deletion and the function of deleting in claims 1, 8 and 10 are considered as new matter. The Examiner would like clarification on where exactly the claim amendment stating "deleting image data that is

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not included in the first list but in the second list” is supported in the specification. Also, isn't identification information for the plurality of image data on the list and not the image data itself? Lastly, since the image data to be printed is extracted from the first list (e.g. see page 9 and 14 of applicant's specification), and this list is checked against the second list to see if the second list contains the extracted information, doesn't the first list actually always contain the image data to be printed?

Re claim 8: The Examiner reviewed the specification in order to better understand the claim Amendments presented in the response on 4/22/2008. When reviewing the specification in order to find support for the Amendments, the Examiner noticed that the deletion means does perform the feature of deletion image data stored in the print cache, considered as the image storage means, but the image data deleted is listed in both the first and second cache lists. For example, when looking at page 17, lines 7-10 of applicant's specification, the image data is first listed and extracted from the first cache list. This occurs in both the first and second embodiments. The Examiner could not find any support for the phrase “delete the plurality of image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of comparing by said comparison means”. The specification discloses deleting image data from the print cache when the image data is marked. The image data is marked when it is not being designated for printing at a present time, but has been previously printed and listed on the second list. Since the above phrase refers to the deletion aspect of this invention and since the deletion aspect of the invention, according to the specification, does not coincide with

the claim limitation, the claim language regarding the deletion means, the step of deletion and the function of deleting in claims 1, 8 and 10 are considered as new matter. The Examiner would like clarification on where exactly the claim amendment stating "deleting image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list" is supported in the specification. Also, isn't identification information for the plurality of image data on the list and not the image data itself? Lastly, since the image data to be printed is extracted from the first list (e.g. see page 9 and 14 of applicant's specification), and this list is checked against the second list to see if the second list contains the extracted information, doesn't the first list actually always contain the image data to be printed?

Re claim 10: The Examiner reviewed the specification in order to better understand the claim Amendments presented in the response on 4/22/2008. When reviewing the specification in order to find support for the Amendments, the Examiner noticed that the deletion means does perform the feature of deletion image data stored in the print cache, considered as the image storage means, but the image data deleted is listed in both the first and second cache lists. For example, when looking at page 17, lines 7-10 of applicant's specification, the image data is first listed and extracted from the first cache list. This occurs in both the first and second embodiments. The Examiner could not find any support for the phrase "a step of deleting the image data stored by said image storing step that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of comparing by said comparison means". The specification discloses deleting

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image data from the print cache when the image data is marked. The image data is marked when it is not being designated for printing at a present time, but has been previously printed and listed on the second list. Since the above phrase refers to the deletion aspect of this invention and since the deletion aspect of the invention, according to the specification, does not coincide with the claim limitation, the claim language regarding the deletion means, the step of deletion and the function of deleting in claims 1, 8 and 10 are considered as new matter. The Examiner would like clarification on where exactly the claim amendment stating "deleting image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list" is supported in the specification. Also, isn't identification information for the plurality of image data on the list and not the image data itself? Lastly, since the image data to be printed is extracted from the first list (e.g. see page 9 and 14 of applicant's specification), and this list is checked against the second list to see if the second list contains the extracted information, doesn't the first list actually always contain the image data to be printed?

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Re claim 1: The phrase "*deletion means for deleting image data stored in said image storage means that is not included in the first list but in the second list*" renders the

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claim indefinite. The Examiner needs more clarification on the claim language. When looking at the first claim limitation regarding the first list, the list is created with identification information for the plurality of image data. However, in the deletion means limitation, the list contains image data to be deleted. The Examiner suggests that the first part of the claim be consistent with the deletion aspect of the claim since the lists contain identification information for the plurality of image data and the print cache or image storage means stores the actual plurality of image data, which is according to the claim language.

Re claim 8: The phrase "*delete the plurality of image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list*" renders the claim indefinite. The Examiner needs more clarification on the claim language. When looking at the first claim limitation regarding the first list, the list is created with identification information for the plurality of image data. However, in the deletion means limitation, the list contains image data to be deleted. The Examiner suggests that the first part of the claim be consistent with the deletion aspect of the claim since the lists contain identification information for the plurality of image data and the print cache or image storage means stores the actual plurality of image data, which is according to the claim language.

Re claim 10: The phrase "*a step of deleting the image data stored by said storage step that is not included in the first list but in the second list*" renders the claim indefinite. The Examiner needs more clarification on the claim language. When looking at the first

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claim limitation regarding the first list, the list is created with identification information for the plurality of image data. However, in the deletion means limitation, the list contains image data to be deleted. The Examiner suggests that the first part of the claim be consistent with the deletion aspect of the claim since the lists contain identification information for the plurality of image data and the print cache or image storage means stores the actual plurality of image data, which is according to the claim language.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holmstead '905 (US Pat No 2004/0021905) in view of Morita '467 (US Pat No 5930467).

Re claim 1: Holmstead '905 discloses an information processing apparatus that acquires a plurality of image data from a server device via a network (i.e. the host computer connected to the printer or the printer is able to receive information from a remote site, which is considered as a server device on the network; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0029]-[0044]) and controls a printer to print a print job generated from the

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plurality of image data (i.e. a graphical user interface (114) sends commands to the printer device to operate the control system (306) in a normal or schedule mode. This controls the printer since the control system is commanded to download print job elements specific to the mode use in order to print a print job that is generated from the print job elements, which is analogous to a plurality of image data; see paragraphs [0033] and [0060]-[0071]), comprising:

first list creation means for creating a first list of identification information for the plurality of image data, which are designated to be printed and to be acquired from the server device (i.e. in the system, the control system is used to create one or a series of print job elements that are used to identify information for print job data that is to be acquired from a remote site, considered as a server device. This information has reference data to the remote site that the information is located and what part the element data is related to in the print job. This is considered as the list of identification information for the image data since this information includes one or a plurality of information used to identify the print job, or image data, to be printed and these elements are a series of elements of a print job file to be fulfilled before a printing operation. The first list is in regards to the print job ticket (500) generated and stored in the input buffer (304). The job ticket stored in the input buffer represents identification information of a plurality of image data that are designated to be printed and can be acquired from a server device if needed; see figs. 3-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

image storage means for storing the plurality of image data, which have already been designated to be printed and acquired from the server device during previous

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rounds of printing (i.e. in Holmstead '905 the system can be configured to have a components of the system in a printer (100), or as a part of a host computer (206) in association with a printer (100). The host computer (206) is considered as the information processing apparatus, which has an image data memory (302). The local memory (302) has print job elements that can be transmitted to the printer (100), or acquired from the remote site, in association with the host computer (206). The elements downloaded from the remote site is stored in the local memory, which is located in the printer, and the local memory has print job information that has been designated for printing and acquired from the server device. The information stored is also from previous jobs that have been printed on the printer and the step (414) is used to store a print ready document on the printer with the previously printed job; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

second list creation means for creating a list of identification information for the plurality of image data which have been previously printed (i.e. on the remote site (202), the print job components, considered as identification information for the image data, is stored. This same information that is stored is also in the print instruction that is acquired by the control system (306). The local memory is used to store some of the print job components that have already been printed and these print job components are analogous to identification information for a plurality of image data. The local memory (302) is used to compare its components against the print job ticket temporarily stored in the input buffer, which is where the first listing of the print job components is located; see figs. 2, 3 and 5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

comparison means for comparing the first list and the second list (i.e. when the data is first received by the printer, or the host computer that is associated with the printer, the data is temporarily stored in the input buffer (304). The input buffer (304) holds the print job ticket (500) and compares the print job ticket (500) components with the components stored in the local memory (302). This comparison is between the data stored in the input buffer (304) and the data stored in the local memory (302) to see if the data matches up to the print job ticket's (500) listed components; see figs. 2-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

deletion means for deleting the image data stored in said image storage means that is included in the first list but in the second list (i.e. in the system, the information stored in the different directories can be overwritten or erased. At this point, since most of the image data in the input buffer is temporary, the image data can be deleted, or erased, at a time when the image data is not in the input buffer. The input buffer represents the first list that holds the identification information of print job components to be printed, and the image data located in the second list is represented by the local memory (302), which signifies a list that holds identification information that contains identification information for image data that has been previously printed. The only time an input buffer contains information is when a print job has been submitted to the printer. If the deletion of information occurs during a period where no print job information is in the input buffer or different print job information is in the input buffer than what is being deleted, the above feature is performed; see paragraph [0035]-[0038] and [0051]);

updating means for updating the second list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first (i.e. in the system, the list of print job elements that are related to the print job in the local memory is updated with current print elements, if the system detects that the print job elements in the print job is missing. The missing print job elements are then acquired from the remote site, considered as the server device, in the system. To be more specific, when comparing the print job elements in the input buffer to the elements in the local memory, the image data that is missing is acquired from a server device. The print job components missing from the local memory, but present in the input buffer is an example of having image data not included in the second list but in the first list. Once the scenario occurs where the print job ticket (500) is present in the input buffer does not have all of its coinciding elements in the local memory, then information is acquired from the server device and later on, the local memory can be updated in step (414); see figs. 2-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]).

However, Holmstead '905 fails to teach deleting the image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of comparing and updating the second list on the first list, after the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Morita '467. Morita '467 discloses deleting the image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of comparing (i.e. in the system, if information on the file allocation table (26) on the RAM (17) is modified by having data written or erased from

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the table, the update flag related to the updating of the RAM is set to one. Next, the CPU (5) checks to see if the update flag is 1 in order to determine if the hard disk (8) needs to be updated in conformity with the RAM. In this case, if something from the RAM is deleted, then something from the hard disk is also deleted in order for both storage devices to be consistent in reflecting the same data; see figs. 5-10; col. 8, line 10 - col. 10, line 65); and

updating the second list on the first list, after the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list (i.e. in the system, if information on the file allocation table (26) on the RAM (17) is modified by having data written or erased from the table, the update flag related to the updating of the RAM is set to one. Next, the CPU (5) checks to see if the update flag is 1 in order to determine if the hard disk (8) needs to be updated in conformity with the RAM. In this case, if something is written on the RAM, then the same information is added on the hard disk in order for both storage devices to be consistent in reflecting the same data; see figs. 5-10; col. 8, line 10 - col. 10, line 65).

Therefore, in view of Morita '467, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the features of deleting the image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of comparing and updating the second list on the first list, after the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list in order to have content relating to file information on one storage device conform with the content on another storage device (as stated in Morita '467 col. 9, lines 20-32).

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Re claim 8: Holmstead '905 discloses a computer-readable storage medium storing a function extension program for causing a computer to acquire a plurality of image data from a server device via a network (i.e. the host computer connected to the printer or the printer is able to receive information from a remote site, which is considered as a server device on the network; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0029]-[0044]) and control a printer to print a print job generated from the plurality of image data (i.e. a graphical user interface (114) sends commands to the printer device to operate the control system (306) in a normal or schedule mode. This controls the printer since the control system is commanded to download print job elements specific to the mode use in order to print a print job that is generated from the print job elements, which is analogous to a plurality of image data; see paragraphs [0033] and [0060]-[0071]), the program causing a computer to:

create a first list of identification information for the plurality of image data, which are designated to be printed and to be acquired from the server device (i.e. in the system, the control system is used to create one or a series of print job elements that are used to identify information for print job data that is to be acquired from a remote site, considered as a server device. This information has reference data to the remote site that the information is located and what part the element data is related to in the print job. This is considered as the list of identification information for the image data since this information includes one or a plurality of information used to identify the print job, or image data, to be printed and these elements are a series of elements of a print job file to be fulfilled before a printing operation. The first list is in regards to the print

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job ticket (500) generated and stored in the input buffer (304). The job ticket stored in the input buffer represents identification information of a plurality of image data that are designated to be printed and can be acquired from a server device if needed; see figs. 3-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

store the plurality of image data, which have already been designated to be printed and acquired from the server device during previous rounds of printing (i.e. in Holmstead '905 the system can be configured to have a components of the system in a printer (100), or as a part of a host computer (206) in association with a printer (100). The host computer (206) is considered as the information processing apparatus, which has an image data memory (302). The local memory (302) has print job elements that can be transmitted to the printer (100), or acquired from the remote site, in association with the host computer (206). The elements downloaded from the remote site is stored in the local memory, which is located in the printer, and the local memory has print job information that has been designated for printing and acquired from the server device. The information stored is also from previous jobs that have been printed on the printer and the step (414) is used to store a print ready document on the printer with the previously printed job; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

create a second list of identification information for the plurality of image data which have been previously printed (i.e. on the remote site (202), the print job components, considered as identification information for the image data, is stored. This same information that is stored is also in the print instruction that is acquired by the control system (306). The local memory is used to store some of the print job

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components that have already been printed and these print job components are analogous to identification information for a plurality of image data. The local memory (302) is used to compare its components against the print job ticket temporarily stored in the input buffer, which is where the first listing of the print job components is located; see figs. 2, 3 and 5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

compare the first list and the second list (i.e. when the data is first received by the printer, or the host computer that is associated with the printer, the data is temporarily stored in the input buffer (304). The input buffer (304) holds the print job ticket (500) and compares the print job ticket (500) components, with the components stored in the local memory (302). This comparison is between the data stored in the input buffer (304) and the data stored in the local memory (302) to see if the data matches up to the print job ticket's (500) listed components; see figs. 2-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]); and

delete the plurality of image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list (i.e. in the system, the information stored in the different directories can be overwritten or erased. At this point, since most of the image data in the input buffer is temporary, the image data can be deleted, or erased, at a time when the image data is not in the input buffer. The input buffer represents the first list that holds the identification information of print job components to be printed, and the image data located in the second list is represented by the local memory (302), which signifies a list that holds identification information that contains identification information for image data that has been previously printed. The only time an input buffer contains

information is when a print job has been submitted to the printer. If the deletion of information occurs during a period where no print job information is in the input buffer or different print job information is in the input buffer than what is being deleted, the above feature is performed; see paragraph [0035]-[0038] and [0051]); and

update the second list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list (i.e. in the system, the list of print job elements that are related to the print job in the local memory is updated with current print elements, if the system detects that the print job elements in the print job is missing. The missing print job elements are then acquired from the remote site, considered as the server device, in the system. To be more specific, when comparing the print job elements in the input buffer to the elements in the local memory, the image data that is missing is acquired from a server device. The print job components missing from the local memory, but present in the input buffer is an example of having image data not included in the second list but in the first list. Once the scenario occurs where the print job ticket (500) is present in the input buffer does not have all of its coinciding elements in the local memory, then information is acquired from the server device and later on, the local memory can be updated in step (414); see figs. 2-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]).

However, Holmstead '905 fails to teach delete the plurality of image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of the comparison by said comparison means and update the second list on the first list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Morita '467. Morita '467 discloses delete the image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of the comparison by said comparison means (i.e. in the system, if information on the file allocation table (26) on the RAM (17) is modified by having data written or erased from the table, the update flag related to the updating of the RAM is set to one. Next, the CPU (5) checks to see if the update flag is 1 in order to determine if the hard disk (8) needs to be updated in conformity with the RAM. In this case, if something from the RAM is deleted, then something from the hard disk is also deleted in order for both storage devices to be consistent in reflecting the same data; see figs. 5-10; col. 8, line 10 - col. 10, line 65) and

update the second list on the first list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list (i.e. in the system, if information on the file allocation table (26) on the RAM (17) is modified by having data written or erased from the table, the update flag related to the updating of the RAM is set to one. Next, the CPU (5) checks to see if the update flag is 1 in order to determine if the hard disk (8) needs to be updated in conformity with the RAM. In this case, if something is written on the RAM, then the same information is added on the hard disk in order for both storage devices to be consistent in reflecting the same data; see figs. 5-10; col. 8, line 10 - col. 10, line 65).

Therefore, in view of Morita '467, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have a computer-readable medium executing the function to delete the image data that is not included in the first list but in

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the second list, based on a result of the comparison by said comparison means and update the second list on the first list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list in order to have content relating to file information on one storage device conform with the content on another storage device (as stated in Morita '467 col. 9, lines 20-32).

Re claim 10: Holmstead '905 discloses an information processing method for extending the functions of a software for controlling a printer to print a print job generated from a plurality of image data (i.e. a graphical user interface (114) sends commands to the printer device to operate the control system (306) in a normal or schedule mode. This controls the printer since the control system is commanded to download print job elements specific to the mode use in order to print a print job that is generated from the print job elements, which is analogous to a plurality of image data; see paragraphs [0033] and [0060]-[0071]), comprising:

a step of creating a first list of identification information for the plurality of image data, which are designated to be printed and to be acquired from a server device (i.e. in the system, the control system is used to create one or a series of print job elements that are used to identify information for print job data that is to be acquired from a remote site, considered as a server device. This information has reference data to the remote site that the information is located and what part the element data is related to in the print job. This is considered as the list of identification information for the image data since this information includes one or a plurality of information used to identify the

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print job, or image data, to be printed and these elements are a series of elements of a print job file to be fulfilled before a printing operation. The first list is in regards to the print job ticket (500) generated and stored in the input buffer (304). The job ticket stored in the input buffer represents identification information of a plurality of image data that are designated to be printed and can be acquired from a server device if needed; see figs. 3-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

a step of storing the plurality of image data, which have already been designated to be printed and acquired from the server device during previous rounds of printing (i.e. in Holmstead '905 the system can be configured to have a components of the system in a printer (100), or as a part of a host computer (206) in association with a printer (100). The host computer (206) is considered as the information processing apparatus, which has an image data memory (302). The local memory (302) has print job elements that can be transmitted to the printer (100), or acquired from the remote site, in association with the host computer (206). The elements downloaded from the remote site is stored in the local memory, which is located in the printer, and the local memory has print job information that has been designated for printing and acquired from the server device. The information stored is also from previous jobs that have been printed on the printer and the step (414) is used to store a print ready document on the printer with the previously printed job; see figs. 2 and 3; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

a step of creating a second list of identification information for the plurality of image data which have been previously printed (i.e. on the remote site (202), the print job components, considered as identification information for the image data, is stored.

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This same information that is stored is also in the print instruction that is acquired by the control system (306). The local memory is used to store some of the print job components that have already been printed and these print job components are analogous to identification information for a plurality of image data. The local memory (302) is used to compare its components against the print job ticket temporarily stored in the input buffer, which is where the first listing of the print job components is located; see figs. 2, 3 and 5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

a step of comparing the first list and the second list (i.e. when the data is first received by the printer, or the host computer that is associated with the printer, the data is temporarily stored in the input buffer (304). The input buffer (304) holds the print job ticket (500) and compares the print job ticket (500) components, with the components stored in the local memory (302). This comparison is between the data stored in the input buffer (304) and the data stored in the local memory (302) to see if the data matches up to the print job ticket's (500) listed components; see figs. 2-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]);

a step of deleting the image data stored by said image storing step that is not included in the first list but in the second list (i.e. in the system, the information stored in the different directories can be overwritten or erased. At this point, since most of the image data in the input buffer is temporary, the image data can be deleted, or erased, at a time when the image data is not in the input buffer. The input buffer represents the first list that holds the identification information of print job components to be printed, and the image data located in the second list is represented by the local memory (302),

which signifies a list that holds identification information that contains identification information for image data that has been previously printed. The only time an input buffer contains information is when a print job has been submitted to the printer. If the deletion of information occurs during a period where no print job information is in the input buffer or different print job information is in the input buffer than what is being deleted, the above feature is performed; see paragraph [0035]-[0038] and [0051]); and

a step of updating the second list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list (i.e. in the system, the list of print job elements that are related to the print job in the local memory is updated with current print elements, if the system detects that the print job elements in the print job is missing. The missing print job elements are then acquired from the remote site, considered as the server device, in the system. To be more specific, when comparing the print job elements in the input buffer to the elements in the local memory, the image data that is missing is acquired from a server device. The print job components missing from the local memory, but present in the input buffer is an example of having image data not included in the second list but in the first list. Once the scenario occurs where the print job ticket (500) is present in the input buffer does not have all of its coinciding elements in the local memory, then information is acquired from the server device and later on, the local memory can be updated in step (414); see figs. 2-5; paragraphs [0032]-[0044]).

However, Holmstead '905 fails to teach the method steps of a step of deleting the image data that is not included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of

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the comparing and a step of updating the second list on the first list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Morita '467. Morita '467 discloses a step of deleting the image data that is included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of the comparing (i.e. in the system, if information on the file allocation table (26) on the RAM (17) is modified by having data written or erased from the table, the update flag related to the updating of the RAM is set to one. Next, the CPU (5) checks to see if the update flag is 1 in order to determine if the hard disk (8) needs to be updated in conformity with the RAM. In this case, if something from the RAM is deleted, then something from the hard disk is also deleted in order for both storage devices to be consistent in reflecting the same data; see figs. 5-10; col. 8, line 10 - col. 10, line 65) and

a step of updating the second list on the first list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list (i.e. in the system, if information on the file allocation table (26) on the RAM (17) is modified by having data written or erased from the table, the update flag related to the updating of the RAM is set to one. Next, the CPU (5) checks to see if the update flag is 1 in order to determine if the hard disk (8) needs to be updated in conformity with the RAM. In this case, if something is written on the RAM, then the same information is added on the hard disk in order for both storage devices to be consistent in reflecting the same data; see figs. 5-10; col. 8, line 10 - col. 10, line 65).

Therefore, in view of Morita '467, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the method steps of a step of deleting the image data that is included in the first list but in the second list, based on a result of the comparing and a step of updating the second list on the first list, after acquiring from the server device the image data that is not included in the second list but in the first list in order to have content relating to file information on one storage device conform with the content on another storage device (as stated in Morita '467 col. 9, lines 20-32).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

10. Ichihara (USP 7023575) discloses an image data printing system and image data printing method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/C. D./

/Chad Dickerson/

Examiner, Art Unit 2625

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